

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SANTIAGO 4401

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BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGAL ATTACHE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV SHUM CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION

REF: A) STATE 145831, B) SANTIAGO 3978

1. I AM IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SANTIAGO SCENARIO
SET FORTH IN REFTEL(A) BUT I PLAN TO DEAL INITIALLY
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS, NOT OROZCO. DEPENDING ON
THE RESPONSE I GET FROM CUBILLOS IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO GO
DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET.

2. GOC COOPERATION TO DATE IN THE LETELIER/MOFFITT
INVESTIGATION HAS REQUIRED IN ALMOST EVERY INSTANCE MY
INTERVENTION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, FIRST CARVAJAL
THEN CUBILLOS. INTERIOR MINISTRY,CNI AND OTHER OFFICIALS
(GENERAL OROZCO) HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE OR WILLING TO RES-
POND TO OUR REQUESTS ON THEIR OWN AUTHORITY. IT WAS
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FOR THIS REASON, AND ONLY AFTER PROPPER RECEIVED NO CO-
OPERATION FROM OROZCO, THAT I DISCUSSED THE TELEPHONE
CALL TO THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ITURRIAGA
TESTIMONY WITH CUBILLOS AT OUR PRIVATE LUNCHEON MAY 25
(REFTEL B). CUBILLOS SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THAT THE GOC
HAD NOT RECEIVED THE DOCUMENTS PROMISED TO IT BY
OUR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND SAID FLATLY THAT HE COULD

NOT PURSUE OUR REQUESTS FURTHER UNTIL THOSE PAPERS ARE IN HAND.

3. THE PAPERS PROMISED TO THE GOC MUST BE IN MY POSSESSION NO LATER THAN JUNE 11 BECAUSE I MUST GIVE THEM TO CUBILLOS ON JUNE 12. AT THAT TIME I WILL IMPRESS HIM WITH THE URGENCY OF MAKING THE PHONE CALL TO PARAGUAY AND RAISE AGAIN THE ITURRIAGA TESTIMONY. I WILL TELL CUBILLOS THAT I NEED A RESPONSE TO THESE TWO REQUESTS BEFORE HE DEPARTS FOR LIMA JUNE 14. (CUBILLOS WILL RETURN TO SANTIAGO FOR ONLY ONE DAY PRIOR TO TRAVELLING TO WASHINGTON FOR THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT BEGINS JUNE 21.)

4. HOPEFULLY CUBILLOS WILL BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO ME WITH A POSITIVE RESPONSE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR LIMA. IF HE COMES BACK WITH A NEGATIVE RESPONSE AND SAYS HE HAS TAKEN IT TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET, I WOULD THEN PLAN TO GO DIRECTLY TO PINOCHET MYSELF. THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY POINT IN SEEING ANOTHER HIGH OFFICIAL SHORT OF PINOCHET. HOWEVER, IF CUBILLOS CANNOT GET A CLEAR ANSWER TO OUR REQUESTS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, OR INDICATES THE ISSUE HAS NOT YET GONE TO PINOCHET, THEN I PLAN TO INFORM HIM I MUST PRESS THE MATTER IN HIS ABSENCE. I WOULD ELICIT HIS THOUGHTS ON WHETHER I SHOULD GO DIRECTLY TO PINOCHET OR DEAL AT THE NEXT LEVEL DOWN IN DIEGO PORTALES.

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IF THE NEXT LEVEL, I HAVE IN MIND EITHER INTERIOR MINISTER FERNANDEZ OR PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF STAFF COVARRUBIAS. I DO NOT THINK VIDAL WOULD BE THE RIGHT MAN; HE HAS NOT BEEN VERY CLOSE TO THE CASE AND ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION WAS DIRECTING THE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST PROPPER DURING THE MOST RECENT VISIT.

5. THE ADVANTAGE OF NOT GOING TO PINOCHET AT THAT POINT IS THAT IF DELAY CONTINUES, THE PRESSURE OF MY RECALL FOR CONSULTATION WOULD NOT BE SEEN TO BEAR DIRECTLY ON PINOCHET; ACCORDINGLY IT MAY BE EASIER FOR HIM TO REVERSE GOC POLICY. IT IS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE, THAT CUBILLOS MAY ASK ME TO WAIT UNTIL HE RETURNS FROM LIMA, PROMISING ME A CLEAR RESPONSE AT THAT TIME. OR THAT HE WILL SUGGEST FOR CONVINCING REASONS THAT I GO DIRECTLY TO PINOCHET. IN SUM, WE MUST FIRST WAIT FOR CUBILLOS' RESPONSE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR LIMA JUNE 14 BEFORE DECIDING ON THE NEXT STEP.

6. IN PRESSING THESE REQUESTS WITH THE GOC THE MAJOR THREAT WE HAVE IS A PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT PINOCHET HAS RENEGED ON HIS PROMISE OF FULL COOPERATION. THIS IS A

MOST TROUBLESOME QUESTION WITH THE GOC WHICH MUST CONVINC
NOT ONLY THE WORLD BUT ALSO DOMESTIC OPINION THAT IT
BEARS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MURDERS. ADDITIONALLY,
I WILL STRESS THE POSSIBILITY OF MY RECALL FOR CONSULTA-
TION.
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